

SKIN

DECEMBER  
1955

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REFERENCE ART AND MUSIC

# DIVER

LOS ANGELES PUBLICATION

NOV 28

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TREASURE**

on the San Sebastian

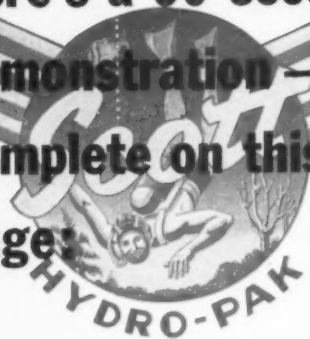
A Magazine Devoted to the Underwater World



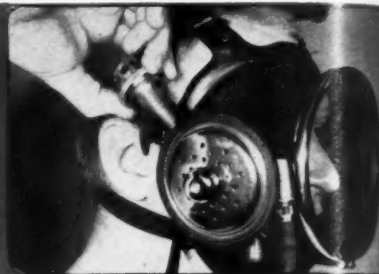
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# The SKIN DIVER

P. O. Box 128  
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Telephone LOrain 7-1367

A Magazine Devoted to the Underwater World

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CHUCK BLAKESLEE, Adv. Mgr.-Assoc. Editor

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## MEETING COUNCIL OF DIVING CLUBS OF CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY, DEC. 6th — 8:00 P.M.  
at the

Compton Recreational Center

123 North Rose Street, Compton, California

## DECEMBER COVER

More realistic than an unobtainable photograph this month's painting by John Steel depicts a struggling lobster diver grappling with his catch many feet below the surface. Man against lobster in the lobster's natural habitat will always be a struggle, in most cases the odds will be in favor of the undersea creature.



UNDERWATER LUMBERMAN—Gustav Dalla Valle while on vacation at Lake Tahoe, Nevada, discovers a large piece of redwood and attempts to bring it home with him. Tahoe is very clear, usually very cold, and always very deep. — Photo by Renee Denis.

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Here at Silver Springs, Florida, the experts choose the Northill Air-Lung



## Better "working conditions" for this famous team!

### Northill Air-Lung wins first choice for comfort.

You couldn't find a better panel of "SCUBA"\* judges than this hardworking team at Silver Springs, Florida — world headquarters for underwater showmanship. "We tried all types of equipment. All of us agreed on NORTHILL. And the same extra-comfort features that make our work so much easier will add extra fun to your underwater swimming. Breathes like a breeze!"

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\*SCUBA: Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus

**Safety features:** A foolproof regulator valve, a depth-compensated reserve air valve and a quick release harness make the Northill Air-Lung the world's safest unit.

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# editorial . . .

**ALL JAPAN SPEARFISHING CONTEST** — Correspondent Ray Daly of the "Cuda's" skin diving club, a servicemen's group in Japan, announces intentions of the Armed Forces Far East Command forming an All Japan Spearfishing Contest. This move will be coordinated through the Special Services Officer at the U. S. Naval Air Station Atsugi and will be based on the same principles as the contests in the States. We think that an event such as this would create widespread interest in an activity that is already rapidly organizing throughout the Far East area.

**FOURTH ANNUAL CONVENTION** — The Underwater Skin Divers and Fishermen's Association of Australasia are holding their annual convention at Bermagui, New South Wales, from December 26 through January 5. In the program Dick Charles says, "This convention will be the biggest ever held in Australia and it has the ear marks of being the biggest ever held in the world. Bermagui is a small fishing village on the South Coast of N.S.W. where some of the finest coastal scenery in Australia is to be seen. It is also the home of the Big Game Anglers; where they fish for marlin and sharks, tuna and mackerel, and other large game fish. We will also make it famous; never in all my travels, which are quite considerable, have I ever seen such wonderful spearfishing territory; and not just a little bit of it, but miles of it, stretching on both sides of the town."

**JOHN SWEENEY**, author of the new underwater book, "Skin Diving and Exploring Underwater," has accomplished another great subsea feat. Sweeney and diver-helpers discovered the remains of the French Fleet that attempted to block the Louisbourg Harbor (Nova Scotia) in 1758. At the time of the discovery the water temperature was 51 degrees, pretty frosty. Five remains were found of former French vessels and one other "impression," as Sweeney tags the ships, which is presumed to be of a British warship sunk during the great battle. Besides the ships he found seven old cannon, two or three stubby mortars, pig iron ballast and 14 cannon balls, all encrusted with rust and heavily corroded. The cannon balls were brought to the surface and transported to a museum. We will have more on this later.

**MOVING FROM ALASKA** soon will be Ron McGhee. Ron has an article in this issue about his diving adventures in the great Alaskan waters. He will be moving back to Manaco Resort on Camano Island in the Puget Sound, Washington area. Ron states that the San Juan Islands are a wonderful place to skin dive and invites divers to visit him there.

**DIVER BALKED ON BIG PROFIT** — As was reported in this magazine several months ago, Max Gene Nohl contracted to the tune of \$50,000 for work on the Dutch motor ship *Prins Willem V* sunk in the Milwaukee, Wisconsin harbor. Nohl obtained a contract with the army to remove navigation obstructions. The contract also gave Nohl clear title to any salvage of ship or cargo. Upon clearing of the obstructions, a task that took 20 minutes, the army engineering corps refused payment on the job, stating that it would be a "disservice to the taxpayer" if full payment was made.

**LEE'S GOLD SWORD** is sought by diver — Bob Marx is at it again. This time Marx, the discoverer of the "Monitor," is probing the remains of the Fannie and Jenny, a Civil War blockade runner. The sword is said to be made of gold and is jewel studded, it was a gift to General Robert E. Lee from his friends and Southern sympathizers in England. Salvage work is presently delayed because of North Carolina weather. The Fannie and Jenny went down in 1864.

**A DIVER'S CHRISTMAS** — This season finds all of us with another year of diving under our belts, we have welcomed several thousand new underwater people to our ranks and expect many more next year. 1955 has been a very good year for diving. New companies have been formed, new products have been made available, new areas have been found . . . just a good year all around. Of course there have been some sour notes, but why mention them. "The Skin Diver" editors would like to extend our sincere best wishes to you for this coming holiday season. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and our very best for the coming year.



**CAPTAIN J. MUSCAT** — first place winner in three European spearfishing contests. The Captain took top honors in the Cressi Challenge Cup meet, the Malta Championship, and the Rolex Championships. All of these meets were organized by the Malta Sub Aqua Club. — Photo submitted by Gustav Dalla Valle.



**NEW DISPLAY and showrooms of Divers Supply in Newport Beach, California.** This newly redecorated equipment palace will be under the able guidance of Edward Burns. Divers Supply, now a division of Waterwear, was formerly operated by E. R. Cross.

Letters t

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## Letters to the Editor:

This letter is in answer to that of Bob Degray of San Diego; since you failed to include his mailing address we are sending this direct to you in hopes that you will be good enough to print it and thus notifying Mr. Bob Degray that we will be more than happy to receive his regulator, repair it and return it free of charge with no strings attached, just to convince Mr. Degray that the owners and operators of Diving equipment stores are not all classified "thieves" and operate under the name of "Ali-Baba Caves."

We can understand Mr. Degray's resentment at the "60 shekels" he put on the line for a piece of fine diving equipment, but if he will cool his heels long enough to send us this piece of equipment, we will guarantee to return it to him in the perfect condition it should have been in when he purchased it. Diving equipment, we believe, is like any other product you buy; once in awhile you get the certain "one" that needs adjustment, a dealer who knows his merchandise and has more respect for his customer's life than his wallet should have checked this item before releasing it to his customer; having checked it and found it defective he (the dealer) should have either repaired it properly himself or returned it to the manufacturer for replacement. We too have had regulators that required adjusting and once in a great while a replacement of a certain part on a brand new unit, but we have always had the manufacturer's prompt and courteous service in making things right at no charge to the customer. As a rule, a minor adjustment can be made without returning to the point of manufacture.

We sincerely think that Mr. Degray will be glad in the long run that he gave up his surplus rig in favor of a regulator that was made for underwater diving.

We would like to have this regulator from Mr. Degray and we will repair and return it the same day we receive it to Mr. Degray's satisfaction, and we hope his good will.

Bernie Heinle  
Mich. Diver's Equip.  
688 Sandy Beach,  
Clark Lake, Michigan

Dear Sir:

Could any Skin Diver reader direct me to reports in medical or scientific literature on research concerning the formation of the anesthetic nitrous oxide under high pressure conditions and the possible existence of an enzyme substance for nitrogen similar to that for oxygen or carbon dioxide in the lung tissue. There are a few questions I've been asked along this line concerning Nitrogen Narcosis (Rapture of the Deep) and the answers aren't readily available. I'd appreciate assistance. Paul Cox, 265 E. 78th St., New York City 21.

Very truly yours,  
Paul R. Cox.

# Letters

## and chit-chat...

Dear Editor:

I am a complete skin diving addict attending the University of Oklahoma, of all places (for skin diving)!! I wish to start a club at school and would appreciate any help from you or your readers as to by-laws, constitution, etc. I will check with the Fish and Game Commission concerning the legality of spearing fish, but feel I will be lucky to find any lakes or rivers clear enough for it.

Your magazine is the best in the field!

Jeff Farrell  
155 N. Bleckley  
Wichita, Kansas



November... duh... 7th, 1955

Them... duh... Editors  
DUH SKIN DIVER  
Box 128  
Lynwood, California

Dear Surs:

We wanna protest against... duh... that article which knocks our club, in the November issue of your magazine.

Nobody... not even us guys... could be that dumb.

We, heerbuy, demand... duh... uh retraction, uh apology and a free ad for the McJerk Manual Anti-Manta-ray-Anti-Monster Mangler, said weepion which was run down like everything in that cheap piece of fiction.

Further and more, we want'cha to know the author is a disgruntled member what got hisself kicked outa our... duh... club for spearing three-inch crawdads (with an anchovy fork, yet. Cheez! How unethical can a slob get!) in Bass and Cherry Lake - OUT OF SEASON!

Mostly yurs,  
T. Twitchley McJerk  
Sekrulatory



"A CLUB DEVOTED TO FIERCE, FREESTYLE GOOFING"

Dear Chuck:

Henri Trudeau, Jr., Ernie Harrell and Henry Schane, members of the Florida A.A.U. Championship Underwater Spearfishing Team, were guests at the last meeting of the Palm Beach Fin Divers Club.

They gave a most interesting report on the National Championships. Some of their remarks were hilarious particularly when they referred to your lobsters as "monsters". Ours, as you may know, seldom exceed three pounds. Even in rubber suits they froze in your waters and felt compelled to head immediately for air after reaching the 20-foot depth. These same fellows scout around in our warmer waters at more than twice that depth.

To them your waving kelp was most disconcerting. They admitted to shooting leaves, at first, thinking they were fish.

The point they were unanimous in stressing has inspired this letter. Our boys, who came out on the tail end of the tournament, were most enthusiastic and appreciative over the generous treatment accorded them by everyone they met in California. They are spreading the word that you California people were "just too kind" to them. They give special appreciation to you and your wife, their hosts while in California, the Voit Rubber Company officials who took time to show them around, and whose sponsorship enabled them to attend the tournament, the fellows at Dive'n Surf who worked late in the night to outfit them with rubber suits without which they could not have lasted long in the cold Pacific.

This sort of thing leaves us with a warm feeling toward you California people. Sincere thanks from all of us.

Cordially,

Harold J. Aycock  
Chairman Fla. Assoc.  
AAU Underwater Spearfishing

Gentlemen:

My magazines have been arriving late, but it's not your fault. Someone at our local post office reads them. He won't admit who he is—while all I want is to get him into our club, The Sea-Rovers of Boston.

Thanks a lot,  
Walter C. Feinberg

Ancient Mariners will remember . . .

# The Wreck of the San Sebastian



By LIEUT. HARRY E. RIESEBERG

*Modern skin divers could possibly find this luxurious Spanish galleon that went down in 1754.*

Perhaps the largest of known treasure—laden craft still lying unsalvaged in West Coast waters is that of the *San Sebastian*, a Spanish galleon which went to her deep-fathomed watery tomb on January 7, 1754, midway between the islands of Santa Catalina and San Clemente, in what is known today as the outer Santa Barbara Channel.

Where this quaint and most extraordinary craft came from is not known other than that the galleon came from north of what is known as California's most northern boundry, possibly Oregon or Washington. Neither is it known to what

port her destination was supposed to have been. However, the ancient, faded and musty old records of long-forgotten archives show that this craft was one of the largest of Spain's eighteenth century galleons.

These same hand-written documents, now in the vaults of one of the California missions, tell us that the *San Sebastian*, adorned with an ornate sculptured figurehead, was broad of beam and round of bow, her stern square with both her poop and prow, like some miniature castle towering high into the air. Atop her painted posts of the poop

were tall, octagonal lanterns, and the woodwork aglitter with gilt insignia and elaborate ornated carvings.

Her four-tiered deckhouse abaft lent an impressive appearance, almost as high as she was long, which increased her fantastic and bizarre resemblance to that of some weird seagoing fortalice. Peering through the three-foot thickness of her mighty bulwarks were many wide-mouthed muzzle-loading cannon, polished brass carronade.

Such was the stately and proud *San Sebastian*, galleon of the Dons, as she haughtily sailed her course southward.

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Unfortunately fate had decided she was a doomed craft, for human life in those days was cheap and human passions for loot and plunder were unrestrained, and Spanish craft made rich prizes for those roving scavengers on piracy bent. And the *San Sebastian*, with her approximated \$2,000,000 in treasure, would make enticing prey!

Furthermore, in those days there were no compunctions about robbing the Dons, for they were sworn enemies anyhow; it was quite the fashion of the British and Dutch buccaneers and pirates in these waters to help themselves to whatever the Spaniards possessed, arguing that if they didn't rob them some other pirate would.

So, let us turn the pages of these faded and almost illegible tomes of the early padres, back to some eighteen months prior to the ill-fated *San Sebastian's* loss. Here, in the scrawled handwriting of the old priests, is told a tale of one George Compton, an Englishman born in Bristol town, and who, having shipped to Vera Cruz, in Mexico, was suddenly forced by the Spaniards to flee the country and seek new fortunes elsewhere.

Old Panama became Compton's next haven, where he joined up, as a mariner, with a band of renegade pirates. After some months of seeking their fortunes by piratical "purchase" on the Pacific seas, a dissension arose between the

### Pirates

mariners and their pirate leader and captain. They finally approached the captain on the quarter-deck with drawn swords and proposals to force their demands.

But the pirate leader refused to either recognize or concede to their cause, and with the use of his musket to back his words, he ordered them back to their quarters.

All became confusion. The rebellious crew retreated under bellowing threats of their leader to maroon them on the deserted shore. The result was that the mutineers deserted craft at their first opportunity.

In this, Compton followed the rest, and was by them soon chosen for their leader. George Compton now became chief of their future piratical activities. And within a fortnight, they had boarded a galleon which was lying in the harbor a little offshore, seized the craft for their own use and dominated her crew. They discovered within her strongroom a great quantity of plate and pieces-of-eight. They sailed northward for Acapulco, where they wasted their days and nights in the taverns and brothels. Then, having spent their all,

both Compton and his villainous band of cutthroats were forced to return to the sea again to rebuild their fortunes.

After taking several small craft as prizes en route northward, we find Compton in the month of January of 1754 cruising in the waters off California's coast north of Santa Barbara island.

At the same time the *San Sebastian* was slowly ploughing southward through the breeze, her *piloto*, keeping his eyes open for sights of topsails of the dreaded British and Dutch pirates and buccaneers lurking in these waters, sighted the pirate craft of Compton some two leagues distant, swiftly approaching.

When close under the lee of the island the galleon was attacked by Compton and his pirate cutthroats. Ahead loomed a small rocky inlet, separated from the larger island by a narrow channel. After numerous exchanges of shot, during which a section of the ornate scrollwork

### Gold

of the treasure-laden galleon's stern was splintered, and a group of the passengers and friars standing on the deck were mowed down, her captain steered for the narrow channel in a final effort to escape.

Then the pirates' parting shot from her bow gun shattered the galleon's rudder post, and the craft struck full upon a jagged fang of treacherous reef and quickly sank to the bottom in 32 fathoms of water. Only a few on board managed to make the safety of the desolate island's rocky shore.

Compton, seeing that he had lost the hoped-for treasure, and knowing himself beaten by Davy Jones, ordered the boats of his own craft lowered to take himself and some of his crew of renegades ashore to the island.

Upon landing on the rocky beach he discovered but 21 of the *San Sebastian's* passengers and crew had made the

### and Women

rocks, these all being Spaniards, and Compton, still holding his hatred for the race, used them as a means to satisfy his desire and revenge. In this he showed himself most barbarous and cruel beyond words, for he put orders into effect immediately by having first two of the padres tortured, the captain was next mutilated with a halberd, and the rest were roasted alive upon a wooden spit set up on the rocks. There being but three women among the survivors, he made his choice and became philanthropic by surrendering the other two to the crew to dispose of as they saw fit.

Thus was the fate of the *San Sebastian*,



LOVELY NADINE LEVEILLE caught by the camera before she plunges into the cool blue waters of Green Lake, Maine. Int'l Photo Service Photo.

her passengers and crew, and the vast treasure within her hold.

The treasure is still there, lying undisturbed, in the outer Santa Barbara channel in the neighborhood of a reef not far asea from California's famed romantic isle, Catalina. However, due to the scouring tides of the years and the Pacific's shifting sands, this vast wealth, no doubt, lies deeply buried, hidden away from the daylight, waiting for some adventurous salvor to wrest it from Davy Jones' keeping and bring it into the light of the present day.

Skin divers might be fortunate enough to strike the exact spot, with a bit of luck, and with the use of the latest metal locators now in use. ➤

## CAPE HATTERAS...

# Graveyard of the Atlantic

By ROBERT F. MARX with JOSEPH S. RYZEWSKI

Cape Hatteras, a narrow sand spit lying off the mainland of North Carolina, has been feared by sea-faring men since the English settlers landed there in 1585. There have been over 2,600 ships sunk off this famed graveyard in the last 200 years. Starting back in the year 1665 when the Spanish brigantine "El Salvador" and up to the present year with the freighter "Omar Babum" running aground on these treacherous shoals. From the days of the earliest New World explorations, mariners have known the Graveyard of the Atlantic but yet they have persisted in risking their lives and their vessels in its treacherous waters.

The main reason for the loss of so many vessels can be attributed to the Gulf Stream. Sea-faring men learned that a considerable length of time could be saved by taking advantage of the Gulf Stream flowing north from the Caribbean to Cape Hatteras, then turn eastward toward their destination. The warm waters of the Gulf Stream travel north at a speed of about five knots and assist all ocean going vessels in making good speed. Diamond shoal extends 15 miles from Cape Hatteras and makes navigation extremely difficult. Today however, a lightship station on the Outer shoal warns oncoming ships of the danger. However, during bad weather conditions, this lightship cannot always be detected, due to the Labrador Current running south meeting the Gulf Stream running north which causes extremely rough seas. Today with the many electronic instruments in use, shipwrecks are less frequent.

During the last century the people on the Banks made a living by salvaging the many wrecks that ran aground and auctioning off the cargo on the mainland. Today, many of the homes on Cape Hatteras are made of wood salvaged from the vessels that floundered there. The people are of every nationality since most of them were ship-

wrecked and decided to make the Banks their permanent home. The main occupation of the residents of Cape Hatteras is fishing. Their hospitality makes tourist trade flourish throughout the wonderful vacationland.

Cape Hatteras is a skin diver's paradise with its many wrecks to be explored and its tropical and game fish coming north with the Gulf Stream, and many different species of fish coming south with the Labrador Current. The continental shelf off the coast extends outward for 25 miles, enabling the diver to work on the many ship wrecks that lie in less than 150 feet of water. Many of these wrecks are marked with buoys since they are a menace to navigation. During the last war over 84 tankers and freighters were sunk by German submarines in this area.

There have been many ships sunk off Cape Hatteras, to name a few, "The Central America," "Monitor," and the "Carroll A. Deering." The Central America sunk off the coast on September 8, 1857. Bound for New York with over 600 passengers and crew members, she was returning from the California gold fields carrying over \$2,500,000.00 in gold bullion. Lt. Harry Rieseberg has claimed to have located this ship and recovered some of the gold bullion, however, no other salvage attempts have been made since.

As for the "Monitor," I (Robert F. Marx) located her off the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse on July 13, 1955, and have now established legal ownership of the vessel. I am presently making plans with several museums to salvage this vessel next spring. (The hurricane season being the main reason for postponing this operation.) The September issue of *Skin Diver* magazine covers a story of my expedition. My claim has been criticized by a few historians since many records show the Monitor sinking farther off shore than her present position. I

plan to prove my claim early next spring by actually photographing "The Monitor."

The "Carroll A. Deering" could certainly be called a ghost-ship. She ran aground on the shoals in 1918, and within four hours after doing so, a Coast Guard ship arrived on the scene. They boarded her, and found to their surprise nobody on board. The table was set for 12 people, coffee percolating on the stove, a cat drinking milk and a pipe still smoking. She had a cargo of valuable wood which could only be obtained from a South American Country. They tried to find her home port and last port of call, but were unable to do so. Until the present day, no one really knows where this vessel came from or what happened to the crew. Three days later after the vessel ran aground, the Coast Guard returned to dynamite her and found the vessel gone. Several weeks later the ship turned up on Ocracoke Island about 40 miles southwest of the shoals. This vessel is still causing a considerable amount of gossip, just last month, after hurricane Diane, she moved off the beach where she had been for over 45 years, and was found 15 miles north on the same island lying in the pounding surf.

For the last two years I have spent a considerable length of time diving on the many wrecks in the Graveyard. I have dove on freighters containing war materials, tankers still containing crude oil, sailing vessels decorated with coral and other forms of marine growth, and even a German "U" Boat sunk by the Navy during World War II. There are many ships that have never been seen for many years challenging amateur and professional divers to explore. The water is rough around the shoals, however all wrecks do not lie on the shoals, some are in shallow water surrounding the shoals and can be seen from low flying aircraft on clear days. My advice to all divers, "Why not take advantage of this Skin Divers Paradise." ☞

# GOOD OLD NEW JERSEY

By LARRY BESS

Florida, Hawaii, California, Virgin Islands and any other tropical country you can think of sounds good to the skin diver's ears, but I think it's about time someone spoke up for good old New Jersey. I don't expect natives of the wonderful states and countries in warm climates to come all the way to New Jersey, for I grant that they have the best waters to spearfish not only because of the different varieties of fish but for climate, water temperature, water clarity and the many concerns catering to the skin diver, but I think my fellow New Jerseyites and people from New York and Pennsylvania should know the story.

Skin diving in New Jersey just like all over the world is every year finding more people turning to this out of the world sport. I've been skin diving four years and every year can't get over more and more rubber rafts and outboard boats anchored at the end of a jetty or in some clear patch of water just a couple of hundred yards off a beach. It thrills me to see this because for years I've told friends and curious onlookers to try it and they would just look at me as if I should be in a padded cell somewhere. Now skin diving has become known to even the back-yard sun bather, and as for a few of my friends, well I've never seen so much enthusiasm.

The best time of the year around the shore without a suit is from June to September, although in September the water begins to cloud up from sand, seaweed, and plankton, and I can't forget to mention those mixed up gals known as hurricanes. Suits should be worn in May and in October. There are some who dive in the winter but this I believe is useless as the abundance of fish life is nil, unless you just like to sightsee.

The water temperature in the summer ranges from 68 to 74 degrees. Visibility ranges anywhere from five to 15 feet. Now to the most important—the fish to be had. If you don't like an abundance of Blackfish, the hunting for Sea Bass in rocks and small caves, the spine-tingling tussles with Mr. Sting Ray, and the fight and fury of the small Sand Shark, then you shouldn't come to New Jersey. There are also crabs of all sizes and varieties, and an occasional Kingfish.

Now that the Jersey Garden State Parkway has been completed, you can



"Well, I'll be a dirty bird!"

travel all the way from North Jersey to Cape May at the southernmost tip and signs on the highways will guide you to the parkway from any point in the state and from any state surrounding New Jersey. After a beautiful drive on the nation's most magnificent highway (I'm not partial, you'll see for yourself) you will then take the turnoff which says Asbury Park. Being a resort town, Asbury has many hotels and boarding houses which charge as little as four and five dollars a day, without food.

Surrounding towns are also very pleasant for residing, towns like Bradley Beach, Belmar, Avon, and Spring Lake, all of these being next to each other and a couple of miles south of Asbury. Once you are settled and ready to go, you may, if you didn't bring a rubber raft or outboard boat, rent a small skiff with your group for a nominal fee. For those who wish a bigger craft, you can rent

one with a Captain who will take you up and down the coast and anchor over some wrecks which the area has, or near one of the many rock jetties.

I would like to point out here in reference to jetties that it is perfectly okay to dive around a jetty with fishermen on it. I have never run into trouble between them. If you pick an area which doesn't have fishermen on it you're okay. As the jetties are pretty big, there's room for all. Years ago, skin divers were a nuisance to them, but now after a few seasons they are friendly, as a matter of fact, skin divers have assisted the rod and reeler by retrieving lost tackle for him. I know I have done it myself and received many thanks.

Well, that's about it. A brief visit to New Jersey which I hope many of you fellow skin divers will make in person come next summer. See you down off Good Old New Jersey! >>>



"Our new secret weapon, ha!"

*A feature story on a service skin diving club, the...*

# FINTWISTERS

By CAPT. LEONARD L. ARBON, U.S.A.F.

(Official U.S.A.F. Photos)

The single dominant feature of current underwater activity is that every submersion is a new experience for man.

Almost every dive unveils terrain seen by him for the first time. Marine flora and fauna is viewed for the first time in its own environment and true perspective. Weightlessness and the accompanying abandonment of customary vertical and horizontal orientation is a new physical experience.

Probing this new world and its many unknowns is in keeping with man's natural curiosity. In a climate of such compelling appeal, it is hardly surprising that so much underwater activity has been generated throughout the world.

Such an appeal it was which prompted a request by personnel here for the formation of a Skin Diving Club at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, the Electronics Center of the Air Force.

A request was submitted during the summer of 1954. On the 20th of August of that year, Major General Harlan C. Parks, Keesler's Commander at that time, gave the "Fintwisters" his official approval.

This approval culminated two years

of research and study on the feasibility of such a club in the Gulf Area and at this base. Honest research was necessary to determine just how hazardous such an activity would be, since responsibility for the welfare and safety of personnel assigned here rested on the Commander's shoulders. Research indicated pretty conclusively that although this sport appeared bizarre and spectacular, it was not hazardous, providing, of course, that basic safety principles were followed. General Parks felt that, since the sport had come of age, formation of such a club would assure the use of those principles.

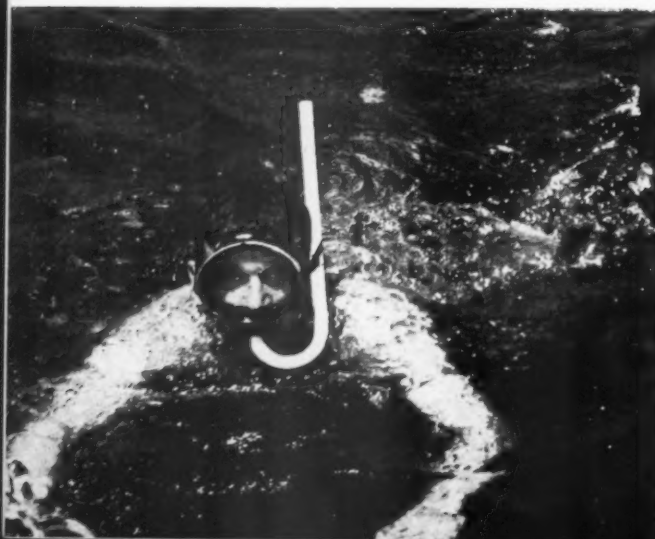
Formal approval came too late in the season for any extensive diving during 1954, but we still needed time to organize, train, and plan. The following winter gave us ample time to accomplish this rather thoroughly. The Biloxi McArthur Hotel generously kept their swimming pool open for us throughout the entire winter for training. They kept it heated and provided a dressing room for the club as well. Training teams were organized from members having prior experience. Tyros were trained in basic

techniques, the buddy system, rescue, and artificial respiration. A constitution and by-laws were drawn up and approved. Coast Guard, commercial fishing boat crews, and party boat crews were queried on every usable aspect of these waters. Approval was granted to explore a sizeable region of the Gulf off the Mississippi Coast. Private and charter boat owners were solicited to assist us in probing this region. All this was done during the cold weather season and before we ever set flipper into the sea.

With the onset of favorable weather we were ready. Since we were starting from scratch in these waters, we systematized our projects. Our first was to probe the Gulf in preselected areas, i.e., to locate and chart those areas most favorable for diving. Areas were selected by compiling on hydrographic charts information gained from the Coast Guard and local skippers. An exploration team was formed with our more experienced divers. These were boys from all over the country and may be familiar to some of you. A/3C John Comin, from Santa Barbara, California, and past president of the "Fintwisters", headed the exploration team. Working with him was S/Sgt Bob Thomas, Corpus Christi, Texas; A/3C Gerald Brown, Los Angeles, Calif.; A/3C "Wempi" Weaver, Ft. Smith, Arkansas; A/3C John McRee, Pensacola, Florida; A/3C "Red" Roeliff, from San Diego, Calif.; and myself. This team conducted initial dives into the Gulf, probing waters with questionable characteristics (currents, tidal sweeps, etc.). We located and marked wrecks and submerged rock reefs for future diving.

All our operations were conducted

*AIRMAN third class Weaver surfaces with starfish during probing operations and exploration for Fintwisters, Miss.*



*AIRMAN third class John Comin, past president of the club, and Leecia Arbon. The young lady is also a skillful diver.*



rescue, situation and ap- fish- crews spect of ted to Gulf off char- assist is was season to the

with heavy stress on safety systems. In addition to using the buddy system as we had taught it the previous winter, we insured that a floating station of some type was always within easy reach. We worked in skiffs from the larger boats. From the skiffs we used inner tubes, and from inner tubes we worked in teams of two, each equipped with a rescue pack. Using such systems our team represented the first organized effort to record and define the character of the Mississippi Gulf Floor from the diver's point of view.

weather atting stem- probe et., to favored by is in- Guard a team nced over some Santa ident plora- S/Sgt Texas; Calif.; n. Ar- cacola, m San team Gulf, char- etc.). d sub- g. ducted

Before I summarize our waters, let me first geographically describe our area. Mississippi occupies approximately a 75-mile stretch of the Gulf of Mexico. Keesler Air Force Base is situated on the Coast midway between the east and west state boundaries. About 12 miles south, off shore, lie the islands of Ship, Cat, and Horn. From Keesler, our activities fanned out to these islands and their surrounding waters.

The group found these waters green and semi-turbid. Visibility was often restricted due to wave action on the relatively shallow sandy bottom. The Gulf floor consisted largely of barren sand, spotted occasionally with grass beds and reefs created from the dumped ballast rock of old wooden sailing vessels. A few wrecks dotted the bottom. Our fish were taken from these rocks and wrecks. Jew fish, Sheephead (not the California species), and Jacks were the most common. Spade fish were abundant, but we didn't shoot them. The rocks and the wrecks were the most interesting, due to the abundance of marine life. Though small, they were colorful and varied. We have had no untoward incidents with shark. As a matter



**AIRMAN** third class White and Airman third class McRee surface for discussion of a problem. Note tight buddy system. After collecting marine specimens in the different areas the club members were able to tell the rod and reel men where their fish were.

of fact, though these waters are traditionally heavily populated with shark, we have seen only two underwater, and both fled on sight. We frequently had the feeling they were quite near, but turbidity prevented us seeing them more often. The mean average depth of this area is quite shallow, around twelve feet; therefore, weather played a decisive role in trip planning. Even moderate winds caused the water to become turbid in minutes. Also, because of the muddy river outlets, diving was impossible any closer than six miles from the mainland.

For these reasons, we found our best diving on the outside of the Island Chain. A few trips have been made as far as 20 to 30 miles south of the islands where long tide rips occur. Some spectacular catches of King Mackerel, Black Fish, and Bonita have been made there.

After completing the exploration phase of our activity, interest quite naturally swung to spearfishing. Trips were made to our diving grounds almost every week-end throughout the summer. Sometimes good and exciting catches were made

(Continued on Page 22)

club, diver.

**DR. HURST SHOEMAKER and DR. R. L. CAYLOR** observe from the research vessel "Hermes" as Fintweisters work.



**EXPLORATION** team in action . . . club members are Brown, Thomas, McRee, Comin, and Weaver (fins only).





**CHUCK VALLANCE**  
beside the van-  
quished ray. This  
species is actually  
called a *Mobula*.

# Three Divers Land Manta Ray

By **WALLACE McARTHUR**

The ray, while not generally eaten, nor considered much of a game fish in the smaller sizes, can be quite interesting in bulk. And, like any wise purchaser, Chuck Vallance displays a keen interest in the large economy size.

He and John Carroll and Chuck Barker of the Sharks were in the water off Puente Colorado the day after the Guaymus meet, looking for Eagle Rays, when Vallance spotted a ray on a shallow dive and speared it. The veni, vidi and spearing were pretty much routine, but the vici was something to write home about. The Mae West was popped and the tug of war began. The ray won the first contest wings down, so Vallance chose up sides and started all over with Barker to add his weight to the line. The ray still had a good edge on our side, so the two called to Carroll for more fin-power. Vallance was convinced by this time that he had harpooned something somewhat more than slightly enormous. In fact, rather excited words were bandied around about a thousand pounds of *Mantissima fortissima*, definitely not in pocket edition, but Morocco bound with spear, gear and three skin divers by this time. By skill or luck the three steered the fish near to shore where they could get their feet on the bottom and eventually towed him in and dispatched him after a display of knifework that would have made Cassius look like a cub scout.

To the disappointment of all, the fish was not nearly as large as expected. The wing spread was seven foot. It was about eighteen inches thick where the spear penetrated. Vallance could lift only one wing. It took three men to turn it over and four husky men could not lift it. Discounting for its slipperiness, the boys estimated the weight at 500 pounds. Really not fit company for a bowl of guppies. ☛

**SOUTH AFRICA...**

# MAGANGOLA

By **JACK WOLHAULTER**

This is a Lulu name meaning great reef. It is a reef which is, shall we say, like a wharf which one can walk onto from the beach at low tide with the water level just lapping over this solid barrier which stretches for fifteen miles. Over the side of the reef the depth is no more than 30 feet and in places much less. Here a party of four of us spent a whole month.

Lobsters were so numerous that in one morning we had collected over 200 lbs. of them. These we gave to the local natives who are a half starved bunch and probably thought we were crazy diving up and down just for fish. Very few Europeans ever go to Magangola because it is only accessible by jeep and is approximately 300 miles north of Durban on the Zululand coast. Unfortunately malaria claims every other person and although we were well fortified with alcohol and

quinine two of our party had a bad time and we had to cut short our stay.

Day before Christmas saw four naked skin divers armed with spearguns bringing up fish every other minute and then along came a school of "kingfish" gliding slowly by. Estimated weight about 200-300 lbs. Wham! four spearguns fired and four spears were lost with the kingfish gliding on with our spears in them as if nothing had disturbed them at all. Although we saw them many more times our equipment was not powerful enough to hold them and we left them entirely alone. One day we saw a monster of a saw-fish and quickly retreated from the water; not wanting to get slashed to ribbons with that mighty jaw. The visibility was not very good, about 25 feet, and although we never sighted any sharks we always had one eye looking back over our shoulder. We will return one day to this remarkable reef when we have better equipment. ☛

MANY P  
advance

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MANY PLACES in our underwater world can be photographed. This breathtaking picture tells a complete story. The equipment is far advanced but has proved worthwhile and practical. Barnier-Rebikoff Photo, Cannes, France.

## FORK-FISHING OFF THE COAST OF MAINE

By MARGARET MARKERT

Well, at last I have dived and grabbed a skate by the tail with my gloved hand; thus I am redeemed! Ever since those two college girls came over to our summer place to swim, here on the coast of Maine, and each caught a skate by the tail (under my husband's tutelage) and this the very first time they had ever used face masks, I knew that I must do so too.

When we first learned that we were to spend a summer in Bar Harbor, Maine, we were told by ever so many people that the water was too cold for even the hardiest souls to stay in for more than ten minutes. So we didn't even bring the spear guns which my husband had used extensively off the coasts of California, Bermuda, and Mexico. Consequently, when we found the water here tolerable, and our cove loaded with flounder, skates up to 5½ ft. long (at least two kinds), "goose fish" (*Lophius americanus*),

sometimes called "monk fish," and sculpin, my husband was forced to resort to a six-inch kitchen fork with which he speared enough flounder for our dinner. Soon thereafter he found that the fork was unnecessary for he could grab the flounder with his bare hands.

After a little practice we found we could stay in the water 45 minutes or an hour, and on one interesting occasion we stayed nearly two hours. The water in our cove in early August is 62° F on the surface and 60° F at a depth of ten feet. We have met only a few other people who are willing to swim for more than a few minutes in this water.

The lobsters here are delicious, but are hard to find since they stay well hidden under rocks or in holes. We have seen only about ten lobsters in waters up to 20 ft. in depth, of which six subsequently found their way to our dining table. We have eaten fresh scallops, too, which my

husband found in 15 to 25 ft. water at low tide in another cove. At high tide they would be about 11 feet deeper.

The most spectacular catch, however, was the first *Lophius* speared with the fork — it was 31 inches long and in all respects the ugliest creature I have ever seen. Moreover this "goose fish" doesn't have sense enough to be afraid of a diver, but will lunge at him when disturbed, opening its huge mouth and exposing its two sets of teeth, — the first set near the opening and the second set well down its throat. Moreover it has "feet" — two fins on its ventral side, each with five webbed "toes," and it has a movable lure attached to its back which it uses to entice innocent fish into its cavernous mouth. One of these "goose fish" we nearly stepped on when we ran across it in only five feet of water at low tide. However, even these "goose fish" have their uses — for instance, they provide excellent biological material for renal physiology research at the Mt. Desert Island Biological Station.

We have concluded, therefore, that "fork-fishing" in Maine is entirely possible and lots of fun, and that if the fork is lost, one can just use his hands. »



**BACKWARD APPROACH** is executed by Paul A. Wells, Mineman Second Class, of St. Albans, Fla., now in Japan with the F.E.U.R.A. This method of entry into the water is favored by "frogmen" because the back worn Scuba enters the water first and cushions the fall. Official U. S. Navy Photograph.

Japan . . .

## Far East Underseas Research Association

Yokosuka, Japan . . . Any Sunday when the weather is clear around the island of Jyogashima or the reefs of Aburatsubo, Japan, members of the Far East Underseas Research Association hold their weekly meeting.

These men are all U. S. Navymen dedicated to the strenuous proposition that there should be more and better skin diving, fish spearing, snorkling, and compressed air breathing around U. S. Fleet Activities, Yokosuka.

The club with the tongue-in-cheek title originally organized in rebellion to the "straight-laced" activities of its parent organization, the Fleet Activities Rod and Gun Club. Fishing and hunting with rods and guns were all right for the tamer souls, but the revolutionaries preferred consolidating the sports. They would not fish for fish nor hunt for game. They would simply hunt for fish.

The fact that they were in the midst of a Central Japan October caused no hesitation in organizing and taking their weekly jaunts to the tip of Miura peninsula. Long underwear or tight-fitting shirts are all they require for swimming in cooling Sagami Bay. Most of them plan to continue diving year round. ➤

Page 20 has  
an excellent  
Christmas Gift  
Suggestion for You

**FULLY LOADED**  
down with gear Harry E. Kingsley, Photographer's Mate Second Class, cautiously enters the water at Aburatsubo, Japan. Official U. S. Navy Photograph.



## Aquatics Conference Held at Yale

Famous aquatic personalities from all over the country met to discuss the entry of skin diving and scuba diving into the field of water sports, at the Conference for National Cooperation in Aquatics (C.N.C.A.) at Yale University, from October 26 to October 30. The conference was attended by physical fitness professors, scientists, swimming instructors, equipment men and dealers who have had special experience with equipment and with the maintenance of diving lungs. Chairman of the conference was Robert J. H. Kiphuth, while the executive committee was headed by Dr. Harold T. Friermood of the Y.M.C.A., Richard L. Brown of the American Red Cross and George F. Anderson of the A.A.H.P.H. & R.

A total of 22 national groups was represented. The American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, American Camping Association, American National Red Cross, American Recreation Society, Athletic Institute, Boys Clubs of America, Boy Scouts of America, Committee on relationships with Armed Forces, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., National Amateur Athletic Union, National Board Young Women's Christian Associations, National Collegiate Athletic Association, National Council of Young Men's Christian Association, National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations, National Jewish Welfare Board, National Research Council, National Recreation Association, National Safety Council, National Social Welfare Assembly, U.S. Office of Education, and the Women's National Aquatic Forum. ➤

# DOWN UNDER UP NORTH

By RON MCGHEE

Skin diving in Alaska is definitely interesting . . . but different. A member of the Puget Sound Mudsharks, and familiar with the cold waters of the Northwest, I have completed a year of diving in Alaska, near the capitol city of Juneau, and the Southeastern section. I arrived here in April 1954, at the beginning of the best season for diving. The progress of this fast growing sport had not reached this far North, and at present, interest is still only passive. Why hasn't skin diving become popular in the more temperate waters of Alaska as in other areas with similar conditions? Some of the questions I will try to answer here.

At the time of my arrival, I was probably the first self appointed underwater explorer using self contained equipment in this area, with the exception, of course, of the Navy and a few salvage experts. The Southeastern portion of Alaska extends from the Gulf of Alaska to British Columbia. It is a relatively narrow strip of real estate with lofty ice fields and glaciers on the Eastern boundary, and the North Pacific on the West. In an ideal sense, this country should be a diver's paradise, there are more islands than one can count, islands of all description, surrounded by reefs, rocks and kelp beds. Many of the islands are uninhabited and unexplored but readily accessible by small boat from the larger communities. This then was the picture, all I needed was the time, and a plan from which I could get a fair indication of the possibilities for diving in Alaska. There were some men here, who were immediately interested in exploration, men having talents ranging from mountain climbing to zoology, were interested, but from a standpoint of assistance only. They weren't too eager to actually get wet.

The first dive took place in fair, cool weather at a most beautiful location called the Shrine of St. Terese, an island north of Juneau. The equipment was the same as that used in other cold water diving: full length rubber suit, Aqua-Lungs, other necessary items and the newest addition, a portable air compressor. Later I found the first dive typical of these waters. The underwater scene was as rough, rugged and irregular as the mountains that met the waters edge. Cliffs, ledges, faults, caves, and canyons are viewed from beneath the



**ALASKA CALLED . . .** to Ron McGhee as it did to thousands of others. Ron has been diving and exploring Alaskan waters for several months.

surface, with forests of kelp and sea kale covering the bottom and occasionally patches of sand. The cliffs drop off into the depths only a few feet off shore, and as I noticed on one dive, while following the face of an underwater cliff to the base, I reached a depth of over 100 feet . . . even at that level there was fair visibility and light. Where the current is swift, the water is clear, as it keeps the sediment and suspended organic material from cutting down visibility. However, the faster water is also much cooler and greater care must be taken to protect the body. I found the actual temperature of the waters here not so much different than in the Pacific Northwest, but generally the swifter currents, due to higher tides and narrow passages, definitely made long dives unpleasant.

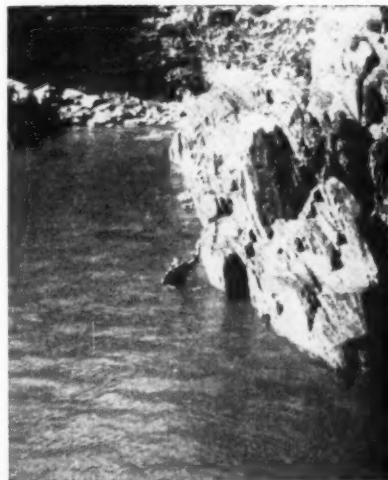
To many, the aspect of spearfishing is an important part of diving, as it is to me, but I was rather disappointed with what I found. The fish of course, are more plentiful nearer the open ocean, but in the more protected diving areas, they are few, and the fish here are usually found at a greater depth than in Southern waters. The most common fish seen and taken in this locality were halibut, tom cod and varieties of rock fish. The halibut ranged from small to medium, with the other fish relatively small. However, several large specimens of halibut and cod were seen, but not taken. Other marine animals noted were

giant sun stars, the starfish with 16 legs, considered a menace to the shellfish industry in the Northwest, rather large hermit crabs and extensive shrimp beds. The octopus in this area are large, and occasionally specimens of notable size are brought up on commercial halibut gear; however, I have not seen any of these while diving. Whales and sea lion are also common in this area and interesting to watch, but from a high and dry viewpoint.

Probably the best method of summary is by comparison with the more familiar Pacific Northwestern United States. After logging some 25 dives in different locations, I found by comparison: the water somewhat cooler, visibility, in general, poorer, due to many rivers and streams and excessive tidal action. Fair diving weather is at a minimum, however the fair days in summer are extremely long. The fish are seemingly scarce, where their natural habitat is accessible, and many varieties native to the Northwest were not noticed. The underwater terrain and bottom is much more rugged, and practically all areas accessible by boat only.

Full length rubber suits, wet or dry, are a must, along with protective gloves and underclothing. Portable compressors for lungs are necessary, as there are no high pressure air stations about. In conclusion, I may say that diving in Alaska is not the best, but not impossible, and if the sport of diving and spearfishing cannot be followed here, I am sure that light weight, self contained gear could be of great benefit to the men of the Fish and Wildlife service, commercial fishermen, geologists and many others.

In this report, definitely not the last word, I have tried to give some idea of diving in Alaska as I find it at present. More will follow.



McGHEE looks very small next to the towering Alaska shore line. Diving was only fair.

## DIVERS! SAVE \$15.20 on this famous "7 Seas" Suit



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TELEGRAPH AT TWENTY-FIFTH OAKLAND 12, CALIFORNIA



### PHOTOGRAPHY

By PAUL CHERNEY

The October issue of "The Skin Diver" and the remarkable response on the part of skin divers throughout the country gave more than ample proof that underwater photography will indeed come into its own next season and the years thereafter.

Thanks a lot for the letters you have written to us. We will try our best to answer all your questions as quickly and as well as we can. Sometimes it might take us a little while to get the answers to some of your tricky problems, so don't be impatient. We would rather reply to you with a slight delay and the correct information.

This column will continue its efforts to keep abreast of all developments in underwater photography. We will not only attempt to bring to the novice as well as to the advanced photographer news on equipment and techniques, we will also from time to time invite promi-

nent exponents of underwater photography and cinematography to visit with us as guest columnists.

### VIEWFINDERS FOR UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY

Most conventional camera viewfinders are of no use whatsoever in underwater photographic work. Once a camera is encased in a housing the eye cannot be brought close enough to the finder — even without a diving mask. Since most skin divers will wear a mask when working with a camera, their eye will be re-

moved another two or three inches or the average distance from face to front window of diving mask.

Reflex-type viewfinders on the other hand are quite useful, provided that the housing has an additional window making it possible to observe the focusing screen or ground-glass of the camera. Reflex cameras of the Rolleiflex type ( $2\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$ ") are, in this instance only, preferable to reflex cameras of the miniature size.

Incidentally, to counteract the frequent tendency of such windows to "cloud-up" through condensation, a small container of silicate crystals or similar chemicals can be put into the housing to absorb the moisture. "Clouding-up" can also be prevented or at least minimized by simply rubbing some soap onto the window.

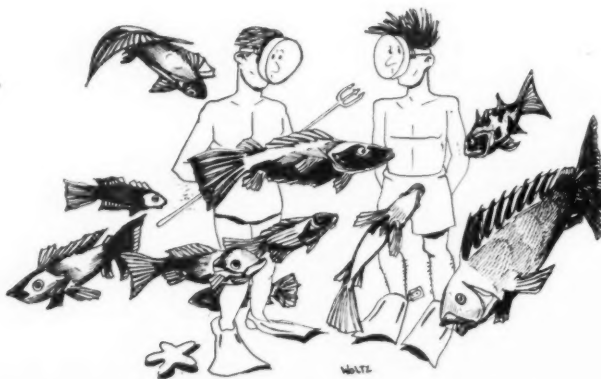
In as much as we have determined that a standard 35 mm camera will be the best type for the beginner as well as for the advanced underwater photographer, a so-called "Sports-finder" or "Frame-finder" on the housing is to be considered the most desirable device for ranging and composition.

It is advisable to "preset" your camera for at least TWO constant ranges:— about three feet for close-ups, and ten feet for more distant subjects.

The larger the "Frame-finder," the more important is its sturdy and rigid construction. Usage under water and even ordinary hazards of transportation might otherwise easily cause bending or even breakage.

The "Frame-finder" is basically a photographic gunsight — with a knob on the connecting track nearest to the eye to be centered in the "Frame" through visual alignment.

The more advanced underwater photographer might, in fact, use two such knobs for parallax adjustment. This is something we will try to cover at a later time in a subsequent installment.



"This is the spot where the bait boat sunk."

# KENTUCKY MISTAKE

By ESTELL LYONS, Lexington, Ky.

We certainly envy some of the articles we read in *'The Skin Diver.'* I am referring to the clearness of the water in other areas.

There was recently a drowning at a nearby lake . . . the victim fell from a boat in eighty feet of water and did not reappear.

William Fitzpatrick, Orville Reynolds, and myself dived for the victim. The first ten feet was fairly clear, at twenty-five reddish. Here we entered what we call "The Inner Circle." Here sunlight does not penetrate, total darkness prevails. To add to this, Herrington Lake, when built, was not cleared of trees or underbrush. We actually had to climb down through the trees and feel our way around, a light was useless.

We searched two days to no avail, and abandoned diving. Five days later the body floated to the surface. Ironically, we were informed, that we had been searching in an area that only looked like the actual scene which was nearly one-half mile further down the lake.

This mistake can easily happen. Hereafter, we will take every precaution to verify all witness, check every angle, because when an accident occurs excitement and mistakes prevails.



FABULOUS HANS HASS at work underwater. Hass, author of several books, has made several world-wide diving expeditions and also worked in motion pictures.



**LOST & FOUND**—Esprit de corps of skin divers is well known to anyone who is acquainted with the underwater "set." This is particularly true of Harold B. Morgan and Lawrence Hamilton, enthusiastic skin divers from the USS Frank E. Evans destroyer now at anchor in the Long Beach, Calif., Harbor. These two Navy men have been busily engaged with "Operation Jigs" which is carried on at a more or less isolated fishing site known as "Tail-Ends" to its followers — "sort of a tail end of Pierpoint Landing," the location is described. Here, where drag-fishing is carried on with unbaited treble-hooks on weights, the two men combine their sport with friendly service, retrieving hooks and other equipment caught and lost in the rocks at the bottom. Recently the "lost and found" included a fifty-dollar reel. Morgan and Hamilton make their headquarters at the Long Beach Armed Services YMCA where lockers are available for the storage of all of the necessary equipment.



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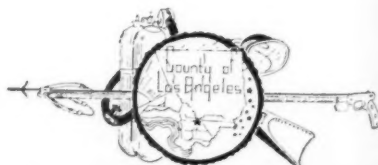
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74 YEAR OLD Ed Proctor checks his diving equipment before one of his routine dives at his favorite diving spot, Doheny State Beach near San Clemente, California.



CHUCK VALLANCE with his 170 pound black sea bass speared at La Jolla, Calif.



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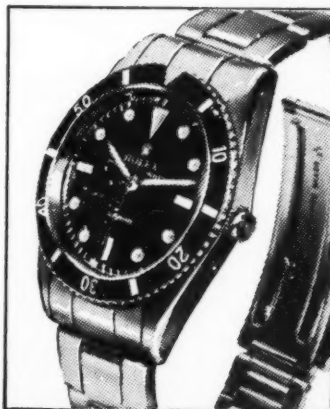


GORDON FREUND, vice president of Hawaii's newly formed club the Hapa I'A (half fish) Diving Club, is shown at left with a 14 pound parrot fish and companions with two fair sized octopus. Spear- ing was done in Wai- mea bay September 24, 1955. Photo sub- mitted by Cliff Spen- cer.

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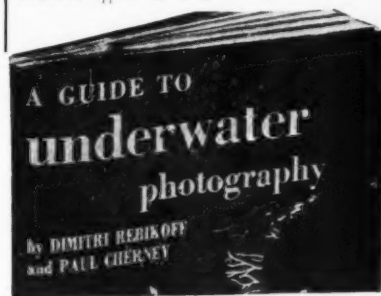
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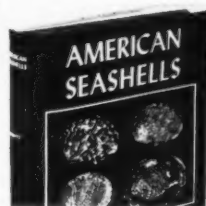
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## FINTWISTERS

(Continued from Page 13)

and at other times we had nothing but disappointment, but I suppose other clubs, too, have their off days.

By July, 1955, we felt we knew enough about the Gulf waters to volunteer our services to the Gulf Coast Marine Research Laboratory at Ocean Springs, Mississippi. This institution, currently conducting extensive research in the Gulf of Mexico, received our offer enthusiastically; so from July, 1955, to the present we have been working as a team. Scientists such as Dr. Hurst Shoemaker, University of Illinois; Dr. Harold Humm, Duke University; Dr. Elmore Behre, Louisiana State University; and Dr. R. L. Caylor, Laboratory Director, have been joined on field trips and expeditions by the "Fintwisters," who have been a great help in broadening their investigations. Also, Mr. James Gordon Irving, Artist Illustrator for the Golden Nature book series, donned mask and flippers for the first time in his life to join us in the Gulf. In cooperation with Dr. Shoemaker, Mr. Irving has been painting fishes of the Gulf for the latest nature book on "Fishes." Publication of this book, compiled jointly by Dr. Shoemaker and Dr. Zim, will occur in the spring of 1956 and will be great news for those who are looking for a graphic and accurate reference on fishes.

This joint venture has broadened and matured the attitude and objectives of the club beyond the immediate sport itself. We have come to realize that we can have a whale (pardon the bad pun) of a time underwater in other pursuits, as well as spearfishing. It has been a strange sight indeed to see our underwater athletes wrestling a glass jar or a fine mesh Nylon dip net through the water in pursuit of tiny fish for the Laboratory when only weeks before these same Frogmen were equipped with powerful underwater armament (tiny fish are more difficult to stalk and capture than their larger brothers). Equally strange it was to see a diver violently attacking with knife a cluster of oysters, a clump of seaweed, or a growth of sponge for the Laboratory benches. It has been gratifying to see how genuinely enthralled the divers became when they began to learn from the scientists the infinite variety of life in the seas.

Most gratifying of all, however, has been the public acceptance all this activity has induced. Frequently we have been met at the dock by fisherman and other interested onlookers, only to disembark loaded with jars, trays and boxes of specimen rather than huge strings of fish. When we answered their

questions openly and honestly, when we told them where we had seen their fish, how could they be mad? The truth of the matter was that they weren't mad. Openness, honesty, and a sense of fair play with one another has fostered mutual respect. No voice has been raised against the other. We were and still are genuinely interested in their sport and they in ours. In short, we have come to feel rather proud of the fact that the "Fintwisters" activities have been constructive and beneficial; that we have elevated our activities out of the realm of controversy, and that we have been able to generate public confidence and acceptance in this area.

Club membership has tended to stabilize between ten to 20 members. Temporary enthusiasm has hiked membership at times, but we could consistently depend upon the smaller numbers. Fewer members have been a definite asset because they have been easier to control and supervise. Too, because of their enthusiasm, they have contributed a full share to our operations. Most important of all, however, safety has been easier to insure. Much to our sorrow, we have found that competitive diving with other clubs has been out of the question because of varied duty schedules and lack of funds and time for travel. Nevertheless, we have followed competition through published media with great interest. Our club has evolved some definite ideas on certain rules of competition which will be forwarded to the International Underwater Spearfishing Association in the near future.

As a matter of interest to other prospective Air Force Clubs, I should cite the authority under which ours was created. Paragraph 2b, Air Force Regulation 176-1, dated 4 November 1953, as amended, served as a basis for our request. It behooves any prospective service club to back up its request with as many honest and pertinent facts as may be required for your base commander to make an intelligent decision. Don't try to gloss any facts. The sport has enough merit to stand on its own feet. Too, I would suggest that you submit with your request an outline on how and where you plan to dive and how you plan to control it in the interest of safety. Additionally, a proposed constitution, by-laws, training methods, and safety rules should be included. This may sound like a lot of work, and it is, but believe me, a well planned, well organized request will save you a great deal of time and trouble in the long run. Further, when such a plan is put into action, it will reap tremendous benefits in efficiency, safety, and enjoyment. In

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short, submit your request with enough detail to enable your commander to look it over, understand it, and then say "approved." When that occurs, all that remains is to put your plan into action.

Permit me one more remark which I consider important in club organization. Make sure that the club officers you elect or select are the best possible for the job. We have found that our secretary, Miss Mary Ellen Coons, has been saddled with the major share of the paper work relative to the club. It was fortunate for us that she has been equal to the task, for if she hadn't been, we could have bogged down early in the game.

Before concluding, let me state that we would be extremely pleased to have you divers who may be passing this way drop in and say hello, and if possible, join us on a dive or two. For you divers who are currently in the service and may be assigned to Keesler, we would be pleased to have you join us.

We readily admit that our waters may not be as choice as those of California, Florida, and certain other localities, but we have fish and our activities are as enthusiastic and interesting as any—anywhere!!!

**Special "Skin Diver" subscription  
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**DUILIO MARCANTE** on the island of *Nabi Tunb* with a parrot fish. Photo by *Hermann Heberlein*.

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## Specimen Collecting for Steinhart Aquarium

By BILL MIXON

On Saturday, August 13, a group of central California skin divers laid aside their spearguns in favor of a more scientific approach to the ocean's inhabitants. The occasion was a dive held at Mission Beach just south of Carmel for the purpose of collecting specimens of marine invertebrates for The Steinhart Aquarium in San Francisco.

The dive was announced to the various diving clubs in the area and interested divers were invited to participate. Response to the idea was very good and almost 50 divers, complete with the usual mountains of equipment, showed up at the beach ready to wrestle most any kind of specimen the aquarium might need. Dr. Earl S. Herald, Curator of Aquatic Biology at Steinhart Aquarium and a well-known figure to central California divers, was on hand and explained that the aquarium needed specimens of marine animals such as starfish, urchins, sea slugs, snails and whatever else happened to be sitting around on the ocean floor.

Diving began shortly after noon and was carried out in three man groups in accordance with the "buddy system." Snorkel divers covered the areas they could reach while scuba divers searched the deeper areas for the largest and healthiest looking specimens they could find. Dr. Herald joined the other divers in the water to help with the collecting while Walter Schneebeli, Collector for the aquarium, was kept busy putting the specimens into the tanks of the collecting truck. Movies were taken of the diving activities, some sequences of which are to be used on Dr. Herald's television show, "Science in Action."

By about three o'clock the tanks contained about as many specimens as they could hold, so collecting was called to a halt and the truck started back to San Francisco to get the animals into the aquarium's larger tanks. A few of the divers returned to the water to collect a few invertebrates such as abalone for their own use while others gathered in groups to discuss equipment and the day's diving.

Although no new scientific discoveries were made, everyone considered the dive a success and the divers went home with a more personal interest in the aquarium and a certain amount of satisfaction about having the results of their efforts on public display.

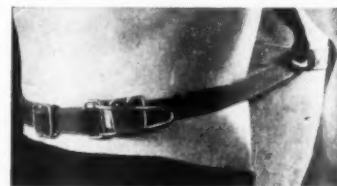
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## TULSA DIVERS VISIT PACIFIC

The story of how two Tulsans flew a 3,000 mile round-trip recently to go spearfishing and skin diving for just one hour in the Pacific Ocean was told by one of the men who said he'd "do it again if I get the chance."

The pair flew to Los Angeles, drove to Wilmington and took a two-hour ride in a charter boat to Catalina Island. There they donned diving equipment and went exploring for 60 minutes.

The two, Harry Lord, 28, and Harry E. Morris, 26, have a slight advantage over most Tulsans in such junkets. The round trip cost them only \$29.80.

Both are employed at the American Airlines depot in Tulsa in the instrument overhaul department. They can ride American free of charge if a paying passenger doesn't "bump" them off somewhere.

Both are members of the Tulsa Divers, an organization of spearfishermen and underwater fans, and said they made the Pacific trip in lieu of a planned diving expedition to Florida which fell through last summer.

Loading up their air tanks, air regulators, weight belts and other equipment in Tulsa, Lord and Morris boarded a plane at 4:20 p.m. and arrived in Los Angeles about 11:15 p.m.

There, they borrowed a car from Lord's uncle and drove to Wilmington. Each paid \$6.52 for a roundtrip ticket to the island.

They never got within shooting range of any fish although they said "it was like diving in an aquarium full of them."

Rushed back mainland by the charter boat schedule, they went sightseeing several hours and caught a 7:15 p.m. Saturday plane for home.



"You really won't leave me, will you?"

Cuba...

## BELL BOTTOM SNIPPERS

By Edward E. Mann  
and Jim Pomranka

During the Caribbean cruise, the U.S.S. Tarawa CVS-40 anchored in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and proceeded to give the crew liberty for the day. Our club had just been formed and hadn't had a chance to get their feet wet, we called ourselves The Bell Bottom Snippers, we consisted of only five members. Even though our number was small we had big intentions.

Only two of us had liberty that day, so Jim and I, with luck from the other members proceeded to Phillips Park, with anticipations of a full day of diving.

The beach was below a cliff and there was a narrow dock about one hundred and fifty feet long, on which there were three ladders to get in and out of the water.

The water was quite cold, compared to what I thought it would be, but the longer we stayed in the warmer it became. With the first dive we were breathless and speechless to the wonderment and beauty that will always last as the biggest thrill of our lives.

The bottom was covered by a multitude of plant life and rock formations,

all of a variety of color and shape. The back ground of water was a light blue gradually becoming darker in the distance. I swam around on the surface, gazing at the bottom with its hundreds of colored fish. The fish were clustered around the rocks like birds in the trees, "brain coral" was in great abundance here. Nowhere have I seen beauty to match that of which I saw in this under-sea landscape.

As I was cruising along the surface with Jim close on my heels, I spotted a "Hog Fish," I dove down, and immediately he took off. With powerful strokes of my fins, I slowly over took the fish, and when I was within ten feet, I fired! A good shot resulted in a speared fish, just behind the gills. I also took a small "Silver Jack" during this afternoon.

I was quite disappointed when my underwater camera sprung a leak, and I was unable to take any pictures, but our memory will always carry a fuller picture than we could capture with a camera.

The beauty of this marine garden with its abundance of fish, coral and plant life, can never be duplicated in any other area of Cuba. In the near future, I hope to have an underwater movie to record the true color and beauty of which I missed before.

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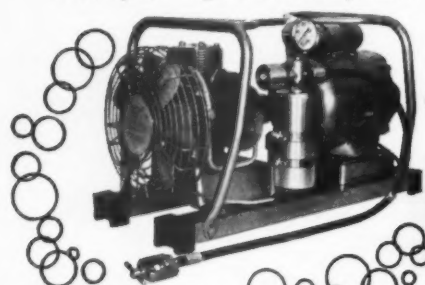
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SCOTTISH DIVER, Dave Stirling, entering the water with a Siebe Gorman Aqua-Lung.  
Photo submitted by Roger Bruce.



## RIVER

# DIVING

BY DON KNUDSEN with CLIFF ARTMAN

One day last August my friend and I were just sitting around throwing the ball, when he mentioned that he wished we had enough money to go to Monterey Bay for some skin diving. I agreed with him, since it had been a few weeks since my last trip.

We live in Concord, California, which is 135 miles north of Carmel. As we kept talking the bug grew, so we decided to go 25 miles to the San Joaquin River, and do some lung diving, where the water deepens to 100 ft. in the channel.

We threw the gear in the Model "A" and took off.

We arrived and in no time we were in the water which had all of three inches visibility, we put on our depth gauges anyway.

We swam out about halfway holding onto our rubber raft and dropped anchor, it seemed like it took a heck of a long time for that nylon line to stop unreeling. We checked our air, joined hands and sank, holding the anchor line.

The color was yellowish for five feet then got a funny green which darkened rapidly. At fifteen feet we stopped and held our gauges up to our masks, we could hardly read them, from then on we sank ever so slowly, it was pitch black, you couldn't see a fraction of an inch in any direction. Cliff started singing into his mask and it made me feel a little at ease. Then a thought came into my mind. "What would happen if I lost the anchor line? We would spend the rest of our time looking for the surface."

At last we hit bottom, or so-called bottom. We sank into muck up to our knees, it was colder.

Cliff suddenly stopped singing, we kicked the best we could and pulled down hard on the anchor line, slowly, ever so slowly we came up, we were afraid to stop kicking, for fear that we would sink back down, our legs hurt from the icy muck, and hard pushing. At last we felt the warmer water on our legs, and knew we were out.

At the surface we found that both of us were covered with black speckles, and were being watched from the shore by curious people. We tied a rag around the rope which entered the water straight up and down, swam to shore, rinsed off the mud, answered a few questions, and went home.

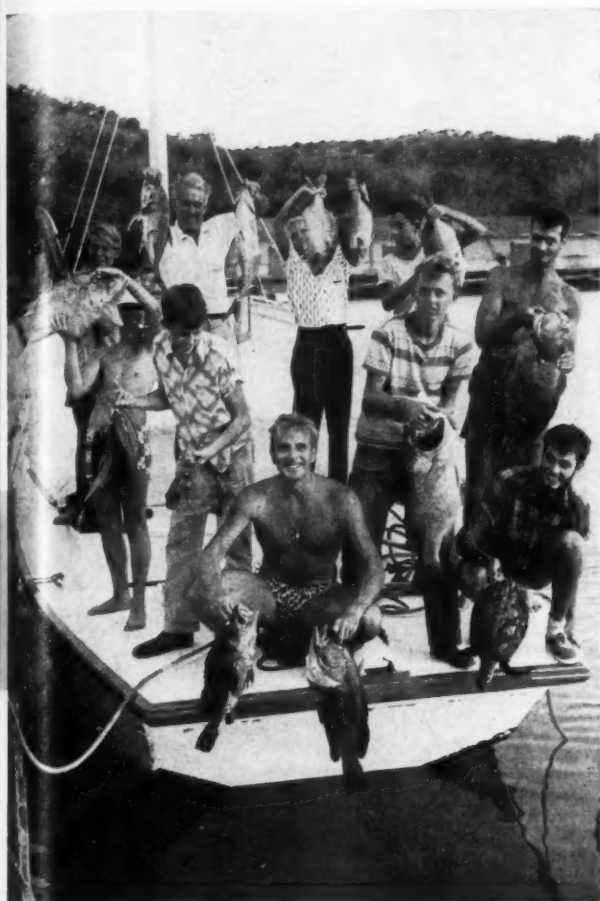
After measuring the rope at home we found we were no deeper than forty-five feet.

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MEMBERS OF the  
Blue Mantas after  
one of their outings.  
St. Thomas, Virgin  
Islands.

St. Thomas, V. I. . . .

## BLUE MANTAS

By Gerard R. Nicholson

To arouse interest we organized expeditions and chartered a cruiser to take us to nearby islands. Our first jaunt to Savannah Island with 18 members was a success. The catch was abundant with fish ranging between the weights of 11- to 25-lbs. Nothing spectacular but lots of fun and good eating. Lots of sharks provided additional thrills.

Due to the renewed and encouraging interest of the members we felt it necessary to provide better facilities for transporting members to and from fishing reefs. Several of the members owned boats but no outboard motors, we had to get one. To raise the necessary funds a dance we called Sea Wade was held at one of our local night clubs, with such success that the following day we were the proud owners of a brand new Johnson 10 H.P. outboard Motor.

Plans are under way for an extensive trip throughout the British Virgin Islands where fishing is out of this world.

In the past we have had distinguished guests fishing in our waters, as Mel Fisher and Doc Mathison from California, Vane



JOSE SABINO, member of the Blue Mantas, with an 18-pound barracuda speared in Magens Bay, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

Ivanovic from England and the well known movie actors William Holden and Dewey Martin who took time out from the filming of "The Proud and Profane" to take a crack at some fish. ➤

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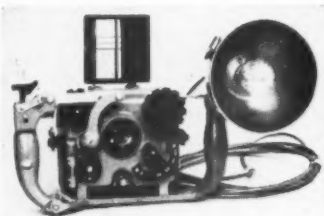
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## BOOK REVIEW

By R. K. AWTREY

### TREASURE-DIVING HOLIDAYS

By Jane & Barney Crile

This book is the saga of a skin diving family. It starts back in 1934 when there was just Jane and Barney and continues on to 1954, twenty years and four children later. Of course, all hands are divers. Their "holidays" take them to La Jolla, to the Mediterranean, and, where their most exciting adventures take place, to Florida and the Bahamas.

The book is written in a style for popular consumption rather than for just the diver; the authors (though Jane seems to have done all the work) tend to "oh" and "ah" quite a bit about the underwater scenery in an early chapter about La Jolla, but then this was their first real diving and undoubtedly we all felt the same way the first time we looked beneath the surface. Some of the descriptions, in addition to those about diving, are very cleverly written; for example, the Criles have this to say about preparing octopus for the palate: "To tenderize it evenly you must brandish the dead octopus, holding it aloft Perseus with Medusa's snaky head, and then hurl it again and again onto the stone flagging, so that the tentacles spread out and hit the pavement with a resounding slap. The guests of those who perform these feats, like the unfortunates who chanced to look at Medusa's face, are emotionally, if not literally, turned to stone."

Much of the Criles' diving was for actual treasure or at least for relics of the past, including *amphorae*, those great jugs used by the ancient Mediterranean peoples to ship liquids and grains. Their most interesting treasure-diving adventure, I thought, was around the wreck at Looe Key, Florida. No one down there knew how the key got its name or what was the name of the wreck. A little research was necessary. Fowey Rocks and Carysfort Light, they found, were both named for British men-o-war that were wrecked in the Florida Straits in the eighteenth century. And looking farther down the Admiralty List of eighteenth century ships they ran across the note: "HMS Looe — lost off Florida 1744 — Captain Ashby Utting—all hands saved." Later, when the Criles were in England, they looked up the court-martial proceedings of Captain Utting in the Admiralty Records. From these records they acquired the complete details of the grounding of *Looe* and also learned that the man-o-war had a prize with her




"I do wish you'd stop wearing my diving shirt dear!"

which sank a cable's length to the west. The remnants of this vessel were then discovered exactly where described!

In addition to being divers and treasure hunters the Criles — or at least one of them is a master photographer, and the photos in the book, both above and below water, are excellent. In fact one of them captioned, "Winslow Homer clouds over our Bahamian sailboat," would make a beautiful painting.

This "One Man's Family" of skin diving will appeal to all members of the diving family. It's a good book to read and one you will want to keep on your bookshelf.

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The hip-hugging low waist skin diver trunk for all day comfort.

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Photo by Gene Daniels taken at Marineland of the Pacific

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We carry a complete line of skin diving and surfing equipment, MASKS, GUNS, FINS, AQUA-LUNGS, AIR-MATS, SURFBOARDS, EXPOSURE SUITS, WEIGHTS, POWERHEADS, SNORKLE TUBES, ETC.

The **Thermocline** is now available in three striking new colors of durable **neoprene**. Marine Green, Golden Yellow, Fire Red.

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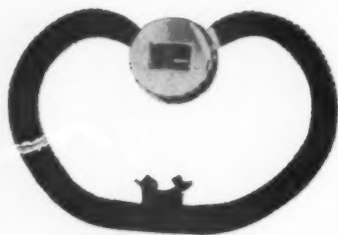
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# Pre-Christmas INVENTORY CLEARANCE! SPECIALS!

We have just finished our inventory and have decided to close out certain new and used items from our large stocks. Sale starts December 1st on first come, first serve basis.

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18 only, New and Used Bottles, 70 cu. ft., with and without reserve.....	\$45.00
7 only, Big Name Arbalette Type Guns.....	14.95
13 only, CO2 Guns, each.....	34.50
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Los Angeles County . . .

### UNDERWATER INSTRUCTORS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

#### Code of Ethics

The Los Angeles County program for the certification of underwater instructors is aimed at developing the highest possible standards in an education program for the general public. To help obtain these standards, we are requiring all individuals instructing under the sanction of County certification to adhere to the following code of ethics. Public classes operated in violation of this code are not County certified and the official County Certificate of Completion will not be issued to members of such a class.

Continued violations of this code of ethics will result in the suspension of a Los Angeles County certified instructor.

An instructor shall always act in the best interests of his students whether or not commercial gain be forfeited by such action.

No class in the training of skin diving that falls below the minimum of six hours shall be recognized. No student shall be certificated or advised to dive

unless the instructor feels that the necessary ability is present.

No class in the training of SCUBA diving shall be recognized that falls below the minimum of six hours. At least two hours should be devoted to information on diving physics, physiology, water safety, equipment, and oceanography. At least three hours should be devoted to practical exercise work in the water. There should be at least three different sessions with sufficient intervening time to allow students to digest instruction, develop questions concerning their individual problems, and accomplish some outside reading on SCUBA diving. No student shall be certificated or advised to dive unless the instructor feels that the necessary ability is present.

All instructors should arrange for students to make their first ocean dives with an experienced diver. This can be accomplished by referring the student to a recognized club.

An instructor shall not advocate any trade name or brand of product. His instruction should be completely objective and based upon the good of the student diver.

An instructor shall not allow any of the certificates, emblems, or materials of his own certification to be used in a commercial manner nor to represent a

### 1960 OLYMPICS

When the sport of Underwater Spearfishing was recognized as a National A.A.U. sport in November, 1954, the International Underwater Spearfishing Association started an investigation into the possibility of its inclusion as an Olympic sport at the 1956 Olympic Games in Australia. A letter outlining these plans was mailed to 22 countries and individuals intensely interested in advancing the pastime of skin diving and the sport of underwater spearfishing.

Investigation showed that nearly three years are required for a new sport to pass the proper committees before being accepted in the Olympics by the International Olympic Committee. This automatically rules out an Underwater Spearfishing section at the 1955 Pan-American Games and the 1956 Olympics. However, the first steps have been taken and with underwater spearfishing expanding so rapidly, the underwater spearfishing organizations of the United States may be able to host the Underwater Spearfishing teams from abroad at the 1960 Olympics.

training program that is not sanctioned by the Los Angeles County Underwater Recreation Program.

Pennsylvania . . .

## MARINE EXPLORATION SOCIETY

By William D. Neuman

Our group was organized early last February with about eight members, at present the membership is about 45. Meetings are held at the Germantown YMCA, every Tuesday evening at 8:00 p.m. Business meetings are every-other week. After the meetings, we use the facilities of the Y's pool for testing equipment and general swimming.

We stress safety. Our motto: "No one will ever dive alone."

October 23 was the date of our first big deep sea trip. We chartered a boat, the skipper, manned by Captain Bill Stiles, out of Stone Harbor, N. J.

The day was beautiful, sea calm, temperature about 68°F. The catch included several anchors, a rod and reel, a good size lobster, the discovery of a wreck, and oh yes, 10 fish. ➤

California . . .

## EBBTIDERS

By Harold Gustafson

A Sea Angel picnic would tempt a Roman emperor from his grave. Their large vats of delicious punch and broilers full of food were ample for eighty men, women, and children who stimulated appetites with softball, volley ball, and various other form of human idiosyncrasies.

Our club president, Dewayne Wilson, keeps violating all rules of sportsmanship and continues to take top honors on all trips. His latest achievement being a twenty one pound sheephead taken off Catalina. This still does not top our club sheephead record of twenty eight pounds taken at Laguna by Don Gottchalk.

The Ebbtiders wish to thank the Bottom Bandits, Sea Angels, Ab Grabbers, Southern California Skin Divers, Sons of the Beaches, Los Angeles Neptunes, International Skin Divers, Barracudas, and the Long Beach Neptunes for their Council booth assistance at the Pan Pacific motor show. ➤

## Round Trip Across The Pacific

California's prized sportfish, the albacore, which suddenly appears off the Southern California coast in mid-July and disappears again in September, may be making a round trip across the Pacific Ocean during the period it is gone from these shores.

This possibility came to light recently with the recovery off California of an albacore tagged by the Department of Fish and Game in almost the same spot 11½ months before.

Previously four California-tagged albacore had been recovered by Japanese fishermen—two off Japan and two in mid-Pacific. One of these fish had been tagged at the same time and place as the one just recovered off California, and had been at sea six months—just half the time it took the California recovery to get back to the original tagging spot.



Includes chapters on:

Equipment  
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Underwater Photography  
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Marine Life  
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With a special chapter for the advanced diver who plans a diving expedition.

"A real skin diver's book. The author knows what he is talking about."\*

## SKIN DIVING AND UNDERWATER EXPLORING

By JOHN SWEENEY. A professional frogman with experience in nearly all the waters of the world, gives you veteran's advice on all aspects of skin diving and underwater exploring.

HENRY S. MONCRIEF\*, in *Skin Diver*, says: "An authoritative, practical and easy-to-read factual book . . . the history of diving is most enlightening. His recounting of the trouble one gets into underwater is very informative and excellent advice . . . good set of underwater signals listed. . . His chapter on rescue and safety is very much needed . . . he has an easy, intimate way of telling you." Illustrated with 8 pages of photographs.

\$3.50 at all bookstores

McGRAW-HILL

## Balsubmare Council Dance a Success

By LAURA STURGILL

According to all the reports I have received, the Balsubmare Dance was a success . . . and we also made money. We couldn't miss with that wonderful club the Long Beach Neptunes helping like they did on the decorations. Henry del'Giudice with his clever ideas . . . there were at least 300 fish hanging in mid-air, by the end of the dance they were all gone. The Neptunes all came in marine costumes . . . real live looking lobsters, octopus, starfish, etc.

My sincere thanks to the Sea Angels for the terrific job of cleaning up after the dance. They enjoyed themselves so much that they have already volunteered to act as the clean up committee on the next dance. Our thanks to . . . the Kingfishers, how smooth they handled the check room . . . Jim Auxier and Chuck Blakeslee for their publicity . . . Bob Ferris for the wonderful plug on the dance on his KNX news . . . Jerry Thomas, my co-chairman, for his untiring efforts . . . Dot and Gene Davies for their valuable assistance . . . Bill Walker who made the posters . . . and above all

New Jersey . . .

## AQUADUNKERS

By Philip T. Scola

As the season of ocean diving came to a close Jersey Aquadunkers squeezed in some cool weekend trips to the jetties off Rhode Island and then moved to indoor waters for the winter. The longest week-end trip was to Martha's Vineyard, Mass., where the Northeast Council of Diving Clubs held a contest which, though not productive in fish caught, was interesting in locale and pleasant in company. Other two-day trips to Watch Hill and Pt. Judith, Rhode Island were worth the long drives since the availability of blackfish and the clarity of the water were big improvements over the New Jersey shore conditions.

Through the winter swimming will be confined to the Paterson, N. J., Y.M.C.A. pool where the Diving Jets of Paterson will join with the Aquadunkers in Friday night swims. Club meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month during the winter at the Cliftonia in Clifton, N. J. ➤

the wonderful firms and people who donated such terrific prizes: Dive and Surf, Kerrs, D. L. Davis Co., Owen Churchill, Riviera Swim School, Jen Loven, Pickwick, Marty Laidiner, Mel Fisher, Jerry Thomas, John Hayden and Wefco. ➤

Illinois . . .

## CHICAGO SUBMARINE EXPLORATION GROUP

By Vern Pedersen

The last few months, our club has devoted all its activities to locating new and better diving sites, making and procuring new equipment, and a little work on our constitution. Some of the finer locations we found were: a few Chicago suburban quarries; Sturgeon Bay, 280 miles north of Chicago and lined with wrecks and reefs; and 2 uncharted wrecks, Bob Monohan spotted from the air, on a clear day, between Chicago and Milwaukee.

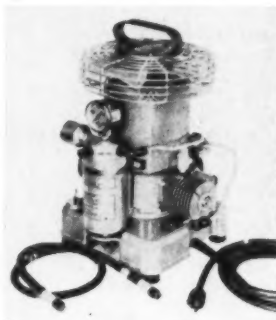
The new equipment we're working on includes; a decompression chamber, which will enable us to simulate dives up to 500 ft.; a sea sled, for locating the above wrecks; and Ron is building a re-breather, the 4-hour type, although, more compact than most.

Thanks to new camera equipment, we now have some good movies and excellent stills. Chuck Napravnick got some beautiful movies of Frank, Bob, and Ron spearing Rays, while on their vacation in Florida. Although even here in Chicago, Jims' Leica, Rons' Robot, and Dicks' Loggerhead prove that good pictures can be taken, even in our Lake Michigan soup.

A final word of welcome to our new members, Frank Popovitz, Fred Johnstone, Gil Hurguia, and John Susin. All swell fellas and we're lucky to have them.

# NEW PRODUCTS

International Trades of Montreal, Canada, has several new items for the coming season and cold water divers. Number one on their list is a rubber suit molded in one piece, their suit can be ordered to your specifications and color, plus a different twist, the suit comes in neoprene or rubber, whichever you prefer. Also on their list is a new swim mitt and a mitt with only one finger for the extreme cold waters. A wrist seal to connect the suit with the mitt is also on their agenda.



New Cornelius Compressor, Model  
130R1500, 3000 Psi

"The Spearfisherman" announces a new suit. This company which started with the shortie one piece, seamless, latex underwater diving suit, an item that is three times larger than any other latex product manufactured, now announces a full suit of the same material. The new suit has full arms, legs, boots and hood, it comes in two sizes and has a front entry. Machine made, the suit employs a unique feature in that there are no seams and being made of latex it has a high point of stretchability.

New Cornelius Compressor. Model 130R1500, 3000 PSI. The new compressor has a capacity of 1.75 cubic feet per minute of free air and a rated discharge pressure of 3000 pounds per square inch. It will charge an air tank to rated pressure about three times as fast as the model 32R1500 compressor. Overall height is 17 inches. The complete assembly includes compressor, oil filter and moisture separator, self-resealing relief valve, 0-4000 PSI pressure gauge, and an integral 100-220 volt 60 cycle AC electric motor. Both the compressor and motor are air cooled and a convenient carrying handle is located at the top of the fan guard. Total weight of the compressor is 38 pounds.

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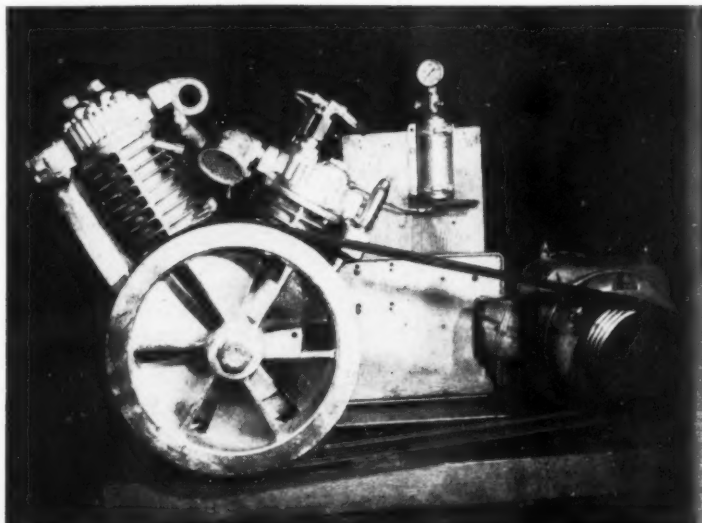
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## OAKLAND EEL'S

By Roy Bridges

Our hats off to the Aqua Addict's in Morro Bay, California. Through their clubs efforts, a very enjoyable and successful contest was held in Morro Bay on Sept. 25th. There could be no improvement whatsoever on anything connected with the contest. The rules, awards, scales, access to water, etc., seemed to meet 100% with everybody's satisfaction. Another thing is the very friendly attitude of the whole town toward skin divers. As to diving itself, the visibility wasn't too good. You just had to do a lot of bottom hunting in order to try and keep in the running. Here's hoping there is a contest in Morro Bay every year.

Our club has been diving at least once a week at Pedro Point. The location of Pedro Point is 13 miles north of Half Moon Bay. The average fish taken there is about a 5-lb. Ling. The best fish among our group from there was a 14-lb. 14-oz. Cabazon. Ling Cod seem to outnumber the other fish about three to one. Most of the diving is done in about 20- to 25-ft. depth with about 4- to 6-ft. visibility, and consists entirely of bottom hunting.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233)

OF THE SKIN DIVER, published monthly at Lynwood, California, for November, 1955.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, and business managers are: Publisher, The SKIN DIVER, P.O. Box 128, Lynwood, Calif.; Editor, James J. Auxier, 15504 Orange, Paramount, Calif.; Advertising Manager, Charles R. Blakeslee, 715 S. Thorson, Compton, Calif.

2. The owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual member, must be given.)

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3. The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.)

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4. Paragraphs 2 and 3 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting; also the statements in the two paragraphs show the affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner.

5. The average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the 12 months preceding the date shown above was: (This information is required from daily, weekly, semiweekly, and triweekly newspapers only.)

JAMES J. AUXIER, Editor.  
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28th day of October, 1955.

(SEAL) VERN B. STONE.  
My commission expires Aug. 16, 1959.



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Texas...

## THE INLAND DIVING ASSOCIATION OF FORT WORTH

By Scotty McLemore

Our club was organized in April of 1955. We now have forty members, all of which own diving gear.

We usually dive each Sunday at near by Possum Kingdom Lake. We have access to several large lakes, Possum Kingdom being the clearest.

At our last meeting members brought wives and friends and we had a barbecue dinner and some movies taken by one of our underwater camera enthusiasts. Afterwards we held an election of officers.

A number of our members are becoming interested in underwater photography and a few have made their own camera cases.

California...

## AQUA FAMILIAS

by Jake Frazier

Thanks to Carl Dalton, owner of the 40-foot charter boat the “Herbie Too”, who so generously donated a trip to Catalina as one of the prizes in last years skin diving derby, we as a club, and a few guests were able to spend a marvelous day of diving.

Harry Yamamoto (a guest) got a nice 12-lb. bull lobster, Cliff Worden (another guest) shot a big Angel shark. Dottie and I each got two bugs and I lost my gun in deep water when the wish-bone broke. While diving with Pat Harrellson, Dottie shot a 70-lb. Bat ray which Pat previously found, and which eased the long trip back to the boat by giving them a free tow. Donny Gath, age 12, broke into skin diving by getting his first ab, an 8½-incher at that. Lots of small fish, and Abalone were taken by the others on board.

Good luck to all you “Bug Snatchers”. We hope that you have better luck than the “Aqua Familias” have had so far this season.

California...

## SEA DOGS

By Phil Nicholson

The Sea Dogs held their monthly wet meets at Peggys Inn and The Caves, La Jolla. The water at Peggys Inn was fairly clear with visibility of about eight feet. We took quite a few bugs and abs but no fish were taken. The next day some of the members went to the Casa Da Manana. Here we took three bugs, a few abs, and three cabazone. The water was clear with visibility of twenty feet. After the dive, everyone gathered around Wally Clynn's charcoal stove and gorged themselves with hamburgers and beans. Everyone turned out at The Caves and we didn't waste any time getting in the water, which was like ice.

Jim Hagedorn speared a world's record yellowtail on August 22, off Alligator Point, La Jolla, only to have the title taken away from him by Al Larson a few days later. Jim's mossbunker weighed in at 48-pounds and he didn't use floatation gear. Larson's big yellow weighed 56½ pounds.

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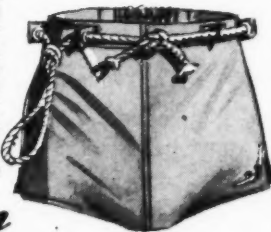
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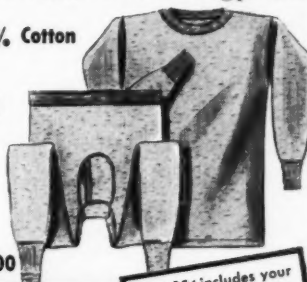


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Illinois . . .

### CHICAGO AQUA VENTURERS

By Robert Hill

The pleasant diving days have ended here in Chicago, as the dropping water temperature is causing more and more leaky rubber suits to come out of moth-balls.

Of course, the water doesn't bother our treasurer, Jack Diedrich, a one time member of the Polar Bear Club, who will go out any day of the year in his bathing trunks and have a good swim before he is ready to call it quits.

Jack, along with our President Ray Marcus, George Iverson, Don Stanley, Hank Benarski, and others, went to Lake Geneva last week, while another group led by Frank Zadawski went about 300 miles further north into Michigan to explore some new territory.

During the winter months we spend Monday and Wednesday nights at a large pool in a local high school. Here we play water polo, underwater hockey, also have underwater races and endurance swims. A bull session usually follows the swim and members talk over anything and everything pertaining to diving. We also laugh over our many adventures which happened as far north as Beaver Island and as far south as the Florida Keys and the Bahama Islands. ➤

Rhode Island . . .

### R. I. UNDERWATER SPEARFISHING CLUB

By Albert Point

The Rhode Island Underwater Spearfishing Club team, Tom Morrison, Daniel Prescott and myself, placed third in the East Coast Spearfishing Championships last July 10th. We were a few pounds from second place.

Morrison holds large fish honors so far this year with a 32-lb. striped bass. He and I were members of last year's third place team also. Dan Prescott won a meet at Martha's Vineyard, Mass. last September, sponsored by the North East Council of Diving Clubs. He will be sent to Florida for a week.

Club member Carl Thornton won a third place trophy at the Watch Hill individual championships, Westerly, R. I. last August.

Our Club co-sponsored the East Coast Championships this year. Our members worked very hard furnishing a staging area and transportation over a mile of water for approximately two hundred people. Incidentally, the experiments started last March with rebreathers, by Morrison, Prescott and myself, have resulted that, in our opinion, they are an unstable unit, except with the most expert use. We do not advocate their use by our club members. ➤

New York . . .

### BELL AQUA CLUB

by Robert L. Smith

With the many new members added to our roll we still acclaim the largest membership in Western New York. We are striving to keep it that way by having club functions at a local Y.M.C.A. indoor pool.

I imagine that every aqua club in the first two or three years of existence have met with the problem of club liability. What happens if John Doe dives down to 60-ft. with a faulty Scuba and never returns to the top for a refill? Does his wife or family have a law suit against you, the club officers, members of the club as a whole? This question alone is one that can be debated for hours in a club meeting, with no real satisfaction being arrived at.

The Bell Aqua Club has solved this problem by making up a liability statement to be signed by each member before he can take part in any club activity. The form states that the signer is aware of the possible risks and hazards involved in diving and holds harmless the Club and members for any accidents that may occur. We believe Aqua Club members will appreciate this elimination of responsibility before they even start on their road to safer and better underwater swimming. ➤

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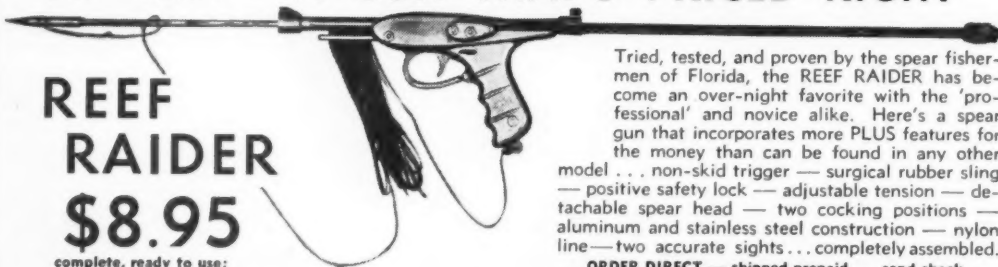
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New York...

### LONG ISLAND DOLPHINS

By Al Hoffman

The death of two unattached New Yorkers with SCUBA this summer has given rise to a safety committee in our club to study preventative measures against further occurrences. We found this to be a large undertaking, so we invited clubs in the local area to join us in the forming of an East Coast Safety Council. The response has been heartwarming and we now have tentative plans for a National Safety Council. Many helpful suggestions have come from clubs, "Ys", Red Cross chapters, etc., from coast to coast and we welcome more. We have started an instructors SCUBA course where qualified and interested people will be shown how to teach diving and SCUBA properly. At the end of the course they will go out to the local "Ys", scout troupes, etc. and give instructions with heavy emphasis on safety. The NYC Police and Fire Depts. have expressed interest in sending some of their personnel to these courses. As the program develops we will give more details.

Recommended reading for divers written by two Dolphins, Barbara & Rick Carrier, "DIVE" now out at your local book stores. The best we have seen in a long while. Chester Dobrowski topped off this season with an unusual catch near a public beach. He dove into a large school of fish that were chasing smaller ones, but could not definitely identify the 18" one he speared. The Museum of Natural History pinned it down to a Northern Barracuda, which grows as large and as unpredictable as the southern variety. This is the first time to our knowledge one was caught this far north. News of this will no doubt thin the ranks of NY skin divers.

Our club has its own monthly publication and we would like to exchange this paper with other clubs that have similar ones. P. O. Box 165 Flushing N. Y.

Maine...

## COAST OF MAINE NEPTUNES

By Don Lamont

Our best spearfishing months have been July and August when several striped bass, all over 20 pounds, were bagged by our members.

We are also happy to relate that there are Tautog in the Nubble Light, York, Maine, area. The fish are not abundant but the ones that are there are big, spooky, and hard to shoot. The official club record for Tautog is a 12½ pounder shot by Bob Foley. Larry Estes shot a 15-pounder but unfortunately gave the fish away before it could be identified.

In July a bill was passed by the New Hampshire Legislature prohibiting the taking of lobsters by skin diving methods. As far as can be determined, no public hearing was held on this matter, the bill having been tacked on as an amendment to a Fish and Game law, and passed in the closing hours of the legislative session. As many of our members are from New Hampshire, we are endeavoring to obtain reconsideration on the bill, but it is going to be a long hard fight. Any attached or unattached divers in the New Hampshire area are invited to contact the club by writing P. O. Box 87, Kittery Point, Maine, stating their views on this matter.

A strange species of fish appeared off the Maine Coast in July and three of them (each over 25 pounds) were speared by our members. The local fishermen informed us that they were "catfish." These fish have a row of interlocking teeth about the same size, strength and general appearance of a dog's fangs. Behind these teeth there is a crusher plate ringed with a row of smaller teeth. The after part of the fish is shaped much like a cusk or eel. The digestive tract of the fish culminates in a large orifice in the fish's midsection. One of the fish actually attacked after being speared through the head. Fortunately he was in a stunned condition and the diver was able to hold it off with the muzzle end of his Arbalet until he got to shore. The fishermen inform us that this fish has not made an appearance in Maine waters for the last five years and all agree that it is capable of breaking an oar in two with its powerful jaws. Upon cutting open the stomachs of the fish speared, it was found that these predators feed mainly on lobsters. We notified the Sea and Shore Fisheries Department of Maine as to this fact and were asked to send the stomach of the next one we speared to the Department. Although a few of them were sighted after this, we were unable to spear any more and after August, none of these so-called "catfish" have been sighted.

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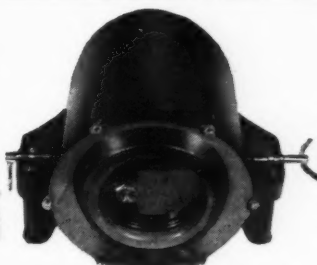
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**COMPRESSED AIR STATIONS**—Due to the many requests from the readership this magazine is going to list all of the Compressed Air Stations in the nation as soon as they are gathered and compiled. This information must come from the stations and from the divers. We would like for you to send us a postcard, mention COMPRESSED AIR on the face, giving the name of the company or store, the address, the type of compressor, the hours they are open and the price charged for the various sized tanks. The list will be utilized by Scuba divers throughout the country and in some cases will enable them to more thoroughly plan their vacation and diving trips. Also it will be helpful in our office in answering the multitude of letters we receive regarding "Where can I get some air?" Write to us, we are waiting for your card. Compressed Air, THE SKIN DIVER MAGAZINE, P.O. Box 128, Lynwood, California.

**VACATION AND TRAVEL**—Do you have a favorite underwater vacation spot. Early next year SKIN DIVER plans a "Vacation & TRAVEL" issue which will be devoted to this subject. To have a complete and thorough coverage of the best and most convenient locations we need proper directions, prices, pictures, fish that can be expected, other game, air stations, distances, etc. We can't all go to the far flung "Paradise" for divers but we would like to try your favorite next year. Tell your underwater fellowship about it here, in the pages of your magazine.

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